About

In the past, the American Feed Industry Association used the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s animal production numbers and average feed conversion ratios to estimate the amount of animal feed consumed in the United States. Unfortunately, this simple method of calculating annual feed consumption excluded some data, including variations in diets due to the life stages of animals, producers’ regional feeding practices and on-farm-feed production, such as hay and forages. The Institute for Feed Education and Research saw a need to conduct a more thorough analysis of the total feed consumed in the U.S. to more accurately capture the industry’s total annual production.

Results

Using input from industry and university experts, in 2017, IFEEDER released first-of-its-kind research that gave the U.S. animal feed industry the most precise, comprehensive analysis of the diverse ingredients used and consumed by domestic livestock. In 2021, IFEEDER updated this report to include new ingredients (i.e., forages and other roughage products) and species (i.e., dogs and cats) to provide the most accurate picture of the enormous volume of animal food consumed in 2019.

The report also provided three, long-term projections on the economic impacts that COVID-19 will have on the volume and value of feed through 2025.

Impact

The IFEEDER report provides accurate data on the industry’s wide support of crop farmers, producers and other industries to provide complete nutrition for domestic livestock and pets at all stages of their lives. It allows the American Feed Industry Association to better represent its members and provide more accurate information for policymakers developing state and federal legislative policies and regulations. This information is also useful in discussions on such issues as international trade agreements and trade barriers, regulatory implementation, mitigating animal disease risks and international standard setting. It has been used in communications to news media and consumer audiences explaining animal nutrition. Several allied associations and state feed and grain associations have also used the data to better inform their advocacy campaigns efforts.